

Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO ALGIERS, AMMAN, JERUSALEM,
JIDDA, KUWAIT, LONDON, MOSCOW, PARIS, TEL AVIV,
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BEIRUT RPTD TO YOU:

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TAGS: PINS XF

SUBJECT: FATAH-SYRIAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS

REF: BEIRUT 11096

SUMMARY: SYRIAN PRES ASSAD SEEMS INTENT ON GIVING
APPEARANCE OF SARG DETACHMENT IN CURRENT SQUABBLE
BETWEEN FATAH/PLO LEADERSHIP AND SA'IQA. AT SAME TIME,
HE DFENDS SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH JORDAN
ON GROUNDS IT INDISPENSABLE IN EVENT OF RENEWED HOS-
TILITIES WITH ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. IN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED SEPT 19 BY BEIRUT'S INDEPENDENT
AN NAHAR, SYRIAN PRES ASSAD WELCOMED AMNESTY IN JORDAN
AND EXPRESSED HOPES FOR ARAB RECONCILIATION AND RE-
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ESTABLISHMENT OF EASTERN ARAB COMMAND. HE RULED OUT ANY

INTERVENTION ON HIS PART TO SMOOTH OVER WHAT HE CALLED "CONFLICT" BETWEEN FATAH AND SA'IQA, STATING SARG HAS NO PART IN THEIR DISPUTE AND THAT BOTH ORGANIZATIONS "MUST RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHIN PLO FRAMEWORK". ASSAD EMPHASIZED SARG PARTICIPATION IN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH GOJ IS DICTATED BY NEED TO PREPARE FOR "LIBERATION BATTLE" AND BY HOPE THAT "ALL ARAB FORCES COULD BE MOBILIZED" FOR THAT PURPOSE. SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PLANS FOR ANOTHER SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN SUMMIT MEETING.

2. GIVEN ASSAD'S ATTITUDE, IT NOT SURPRISING THAT LEBANESE LEFTIST LEADER KAMAL JUMBLATT'S SEPT 19 VISIT TO DAMASCUS APPARENTLY PRODUCED LITTLE PROGRESS TOWARD SETTling FATAH-SA'IQA DIFFERENCES. IN PUBLIC STATEMENT FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH ASSAD, JUMBLATT MADE NO REFERENCES TO THIS SUBJECT, STATING INSTEAD THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN TO SYRIAN PRES RE "PSYCHOLOGICAL MOBILIZATION OF LEBANESE REACTIONARY FORCES AND ARMY" AS PART OF CONTINUING "PLOT" TO ATTACK AND LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE HERE. WE UNDERSTAND JUMBLATT SOUGHT MEETING WITH 'ARAFAT UPON HIS RETURN TO BEIRUT--FOR PURPOSE, WE SUSPECT, OF REPORTING THAT HIS TALK WITH ASSAD HAD NOT ACCOMPLISHED MUCH.

3. IN ANOTHER NOTWORTHY INTERVIEW, NAHAR QUOTED SA'IQA'S ZOHAYR MUHSEN AS DENYING REPORTS THAT GOJ HAD APPROVED ENTRY OF SA'IQA OR ADDITIONAL PLA UNITS INTO JORDAN. TAKING SOMEWHAT SOFTER LINE VIS-A-VIS FATAH/PLO THAN HE DID TEN DAYS AGO (BEIRUT 10672 NOTAL), MUHSEN ADDED: "SA'IQA IS PART OF FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT, AND NONE OF ITS ELEMENTS WILL ENTER JORDAN EXCEPT AS PART OF COLLECTIVE MOVE BY THE ENTIRE MOVEMENT AND FOLLOWING DECISION TO THAT EFFECT BY PLO LEADERSHIP". "IN ANY EVENT", SAID MUHSEN, "JORDANIAN APPROVAL HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN TO DATE". HE MADE NO MENTION OF REPORTS CIRCULATING HERE THAT SARG HAS ASKED GOJ TO PERMIT FEDAYEEN RETURN TO "THREE BASES" IN JORDAN AS PREREQUISITE FOR RENEWAL OF SARG-GOJ DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.)

4. ON QUESTION OF FATAH-SA'IQA RELATIONS, MUHSEN SAID IT IMPERATIVE THAT MUTUAL CONFIDENCE BE RESTORED, BUT HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADDED THAT "EACH SIDE MUST BE ABLE TO DISTINGUISH RIGHT FROM WRONG". (COMMENT: WE TAKE THIS REMARK TO MEAN THAT FATAH/PLO AGITATION AGAINST SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS JORDAN SHOULD CEASE AND THAT FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP MUST TAKE STRONGER ACTION TO ELIMINATE WHAT SA'IQA REGARDS AS "MAD OPERATIONS" MOUNTED BY RADICAL, TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN COMMANDO MOVEMENT.) HOUGHTON UNQUOTE. RUSH

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